

P R 251205Z JUN 08  
FM AMEMBASSY PODGORICA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0848  
SECDEF WASHINGTON DC  
SECDEF WASHDC  
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE  
AMEMBASSY ZAGREB  
AMEMBASSY TIRANA  
AMEMBASSY SARAJEVO  
AMEMBASSY PRISTINA  
AMEMBASSY PODGORICA

UNCLAS PODGORICA 000180

E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: [PTER](#) [MASS](#) [PREL](#) [MW](#)  
SUBJECT: MONTENEGRO DESTROYS 1500 MANPADS

¶1. Montenegro completed destruction of 1500 SAM-7 "Strela" 9M32M Man Portable Air Defense Systems (MANPADS) on June 12. These systems, which accounted for 86 percent of Montenegro's total previous inventory of 1750 Strelas, were destroyed in line with a 2007 bilateral agreement with the U.S.

¶2. Under the terms of the 2007 agreement, the USG will provide the GoM with additional demilitarization assistance, including destruction of obsolete rockets and missiles and more than 2,000 sea mines and torpedoes. In total, Montenegro has more than 9,000 tons of excess weapons and ammunition. Under the agreement with the U.S., approximately 2,000 tons of this excess will be demilitarized or eliminated.

¶3. Local residents and opposition figures have, at various points, raised concerns and/or roadblocks to the destruction of the missiles. Most recently, we have heard that local residents may sue the government for harming the environment in the area where the Strelas were destroyed.

¶4. We also learned recently that the Interior Ministry may have a handful of additional MANPADs in its own inventory. If confirmed, we will report via septel.

RMOORE